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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,230	02/09/2001	Andreas Manz	0225-0066.22	8918

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

STARSIAK, JOHN S

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1753

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/780,230	Applicant(s) Andreas Manz et al.
Examiner J. STARSIAK	Group Art Unit 1753

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2003

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>19-21</u> | is/are pending in the application. |
| Of the above claim(s) _____ | is/are withdrawn from consideration. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ | is/are allowed. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>19</u> | is/are rejected. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>20 and 21</u> | is/are objected to. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ | are subject to restriction or election requirement |

Application Papers

- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All Some* None of the:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-413 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Office Action Summary

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Verheggen et al.

Figure 1 of Verheggen et al. clearly illustrates all of the structure recited in claim 1.

Figure 1 all illustrates all of the process language in claim 19 except for what is causing fluid flow. On page 622, Verheggen et al. teaches, "In a third experiment (fig. 3c) the sampling was carried out by electromigration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 03 February 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument's rely entirely a single statement in the decision of the board of appeals (Appeal No. 1997-3328), i.e., "Although the prior art appears to recognize the different migration rates within a sample, and that the sample should be clearly defined, *we do not find any prior art recognition of how to provide a geometrically defined sample* in a[n] electrophoresis device as described in claim 19 (emphasis added by applicant). This applicant's argument is not well-taken because his argument depends only on the emphasized portion of the statement and the entire statement, i.e. "as described in claim 19". In the specification of the present application in the discussion of Verheggen et al. [page 2, lines 1-3] the applicant admits: "The injection volume [Verheggen et al] is *defined geometrically* by then distance which the two feeders are spaced apart along the capillary tube".

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

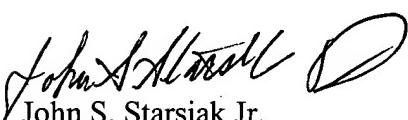
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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John S. Starsiak Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-1797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM and on Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X. Nguyen, can be reached on (703) (703) 308-3322 . The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


John S. Starsiak Jr.


NAM NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

03 September 2003